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(54) **MULTI-PULSE RECTIFIER FOR AC DRIVE SYSTEMS HAVING SEPARATE DC BUS PER OUTPUT PHASE**

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H02M 7/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **363/67; 363/126**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **363/70, 363/37, 34, 52, 61, 125, 126, 67, 36**
See application file for complete search history.

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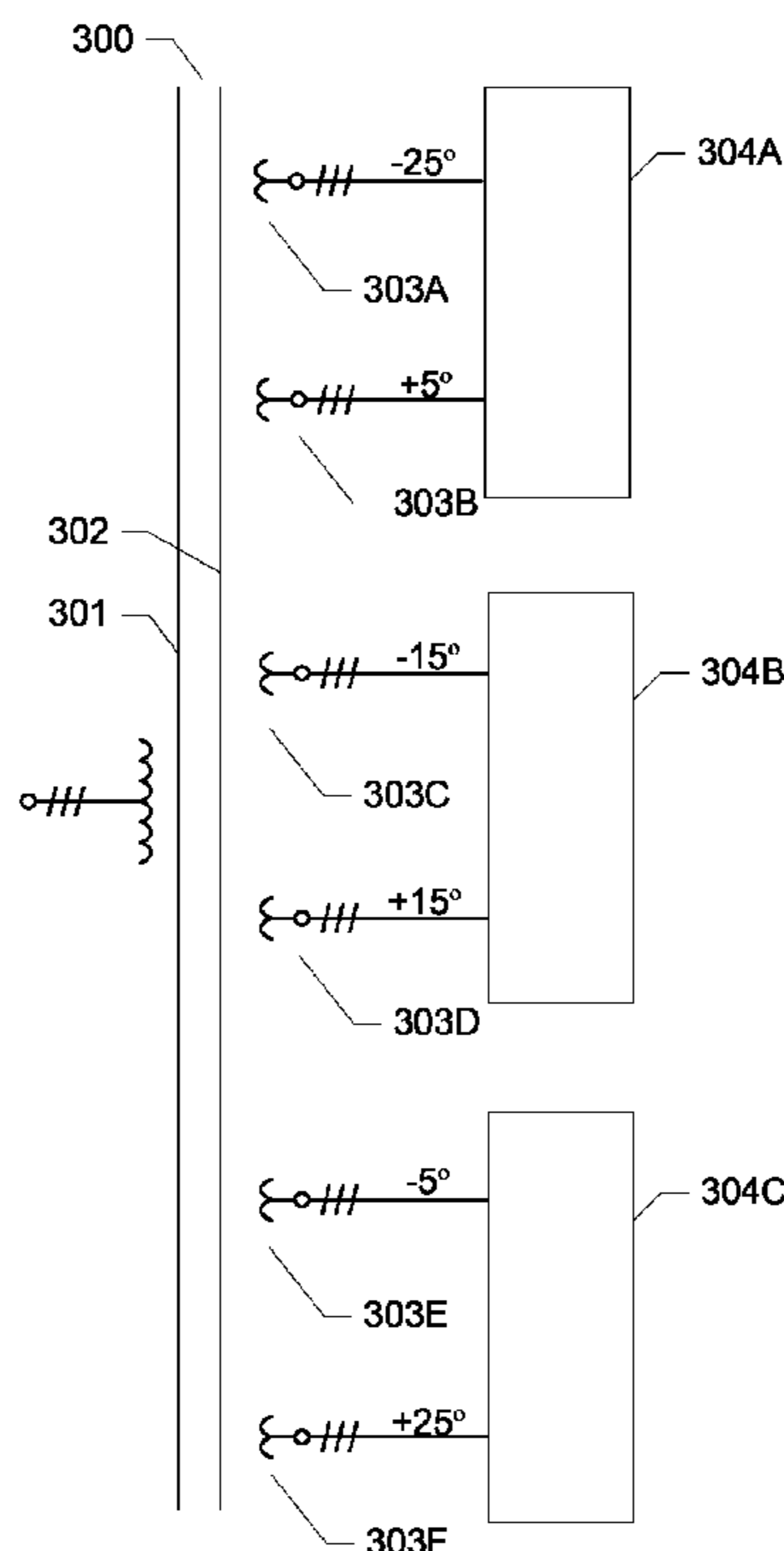
Assistant Examiner — Nguyen Tran

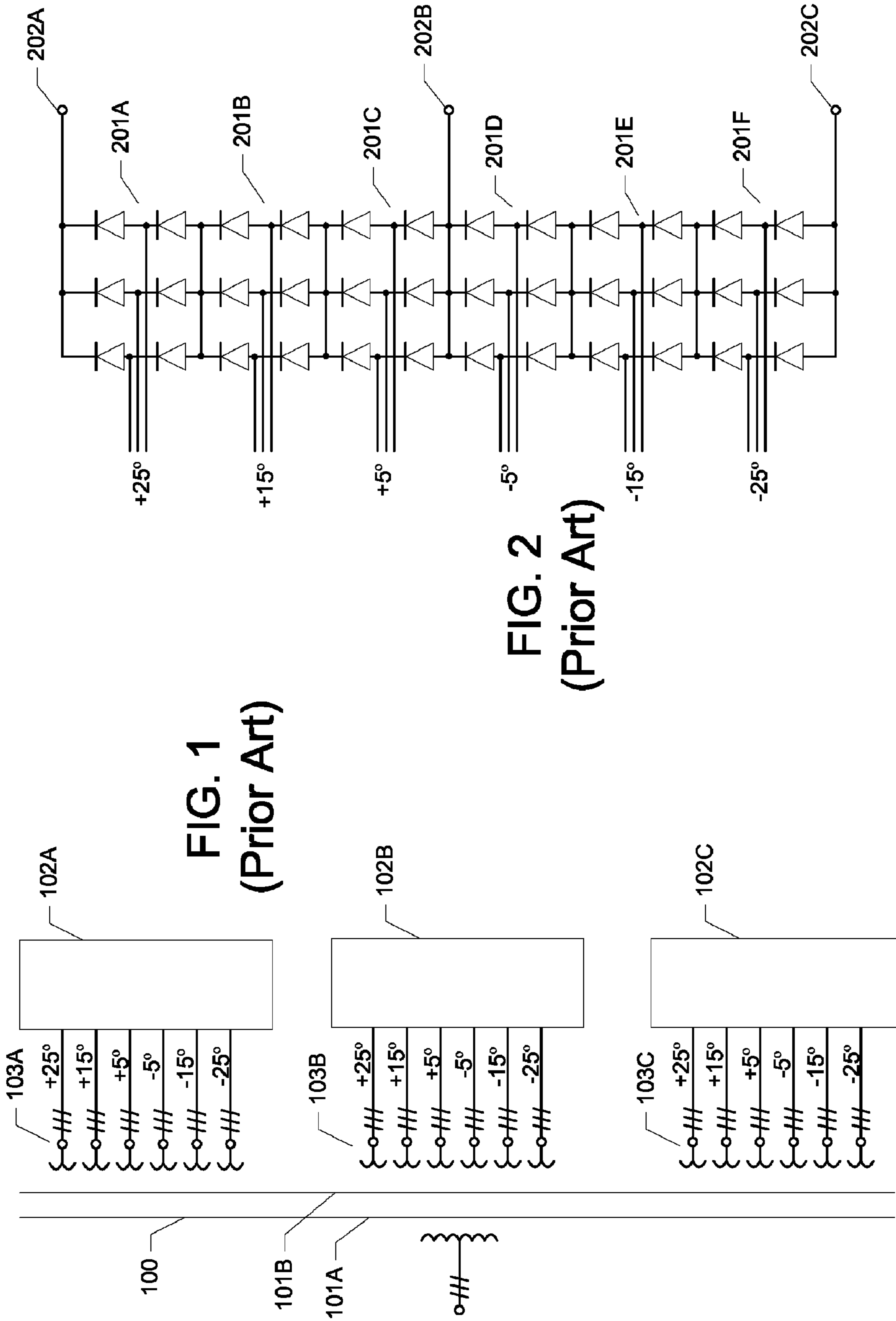
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An 18n-pulse rectifier for AC drive systems having a separate DC bus for each output phase is described, where n=any positive integer. The rectifier uses three separate phase rectifiers, one for each output phase of a transformer, each comprised of n six-pulse diode bridges connected in series or parallel. Each phase rectifier may be supplied with n unique sets of phase inputs from a transformer secondary winding. In some configurations, the n sets of inputs provided to each rectifier are separated by 60/n degrees of phase (when n is greater than 1), while the corresponding inputs to neighboring rectifiers are separated by 20/n degrees of phase. In a 36-pulse example, the phase offsets for the inputs provided to the rectifiers may be -25° and +5° from the transformer primary winding (for the first rectifier), -15° and +15° from the primary winding (for the second rectifier) and -5° and +25° from the primary winding (for the third rectifier). Each set of inputs may include three lines of in-phase current, and may be coupled to one of the six-pulse diode bridges.

21 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





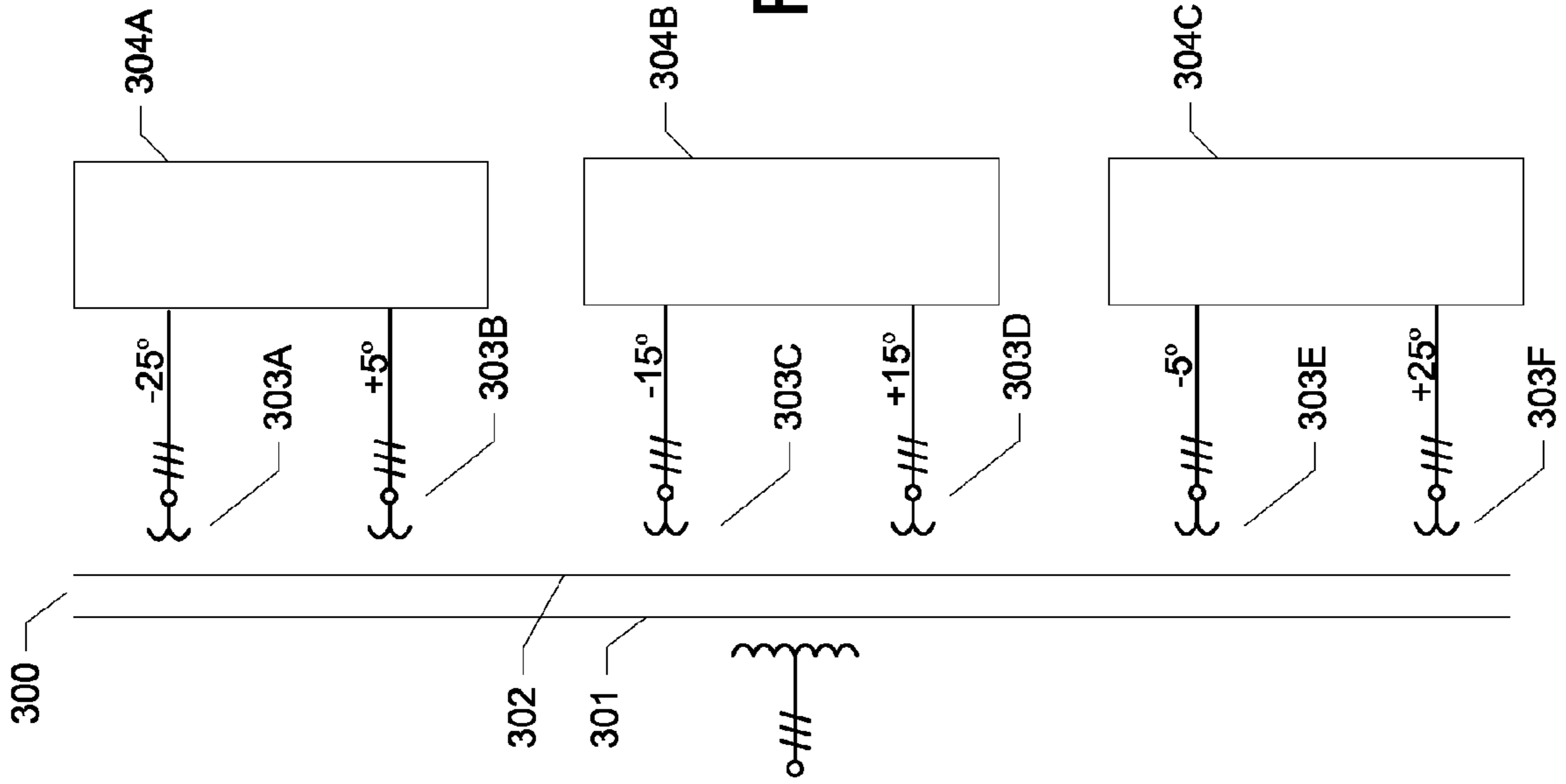


FIG. 3

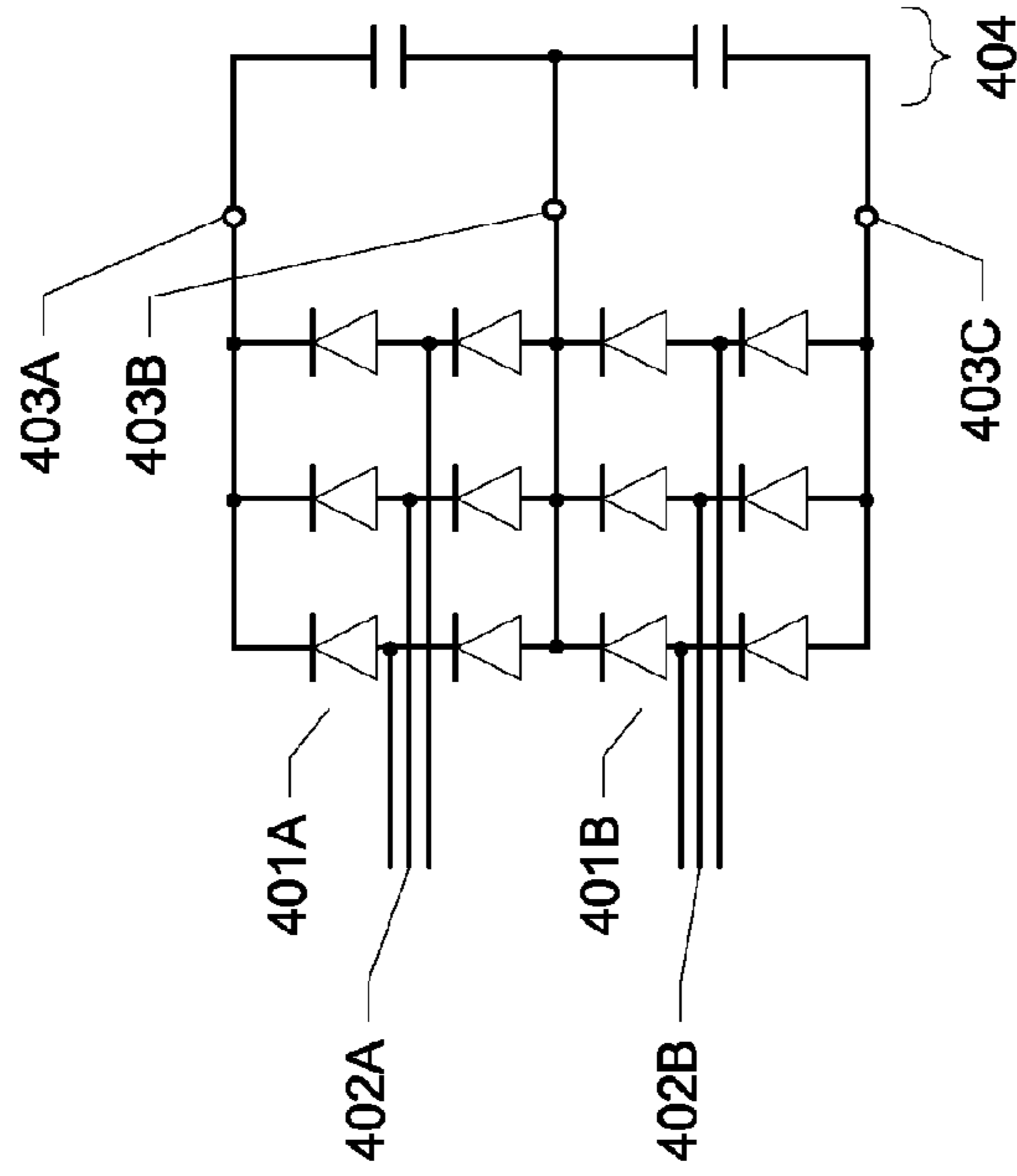


FIG. 4

Harmonic	System						IEEE 519 limit
	6 pulse*	12 pulse*	18 pulse*	24 pulse*	36 pulse*	MTX 36 pulse**	
5	29.50%	7.90%	3.94%	2.56%	1.90%	1.50%	4.00%
7	8.30%	2.23%	1.34%	0.97%	0.72%	0.64%	4.00%
11	5.79%	5.79%	0.42%	0.29%	0.20%	0.64%	2.00%
13	3.33%	3.33%	0.40%	0.19%	0.13%	0.43%	2.00%
17	2.01%	0.54%	1.18%	0.13%	0.06%	0.23%	1.50%
19	1.77%	0.47%	0.94%	0.13%	0.05%	0.17%	1.50%
23	0.95%	0.95%	0.13%	0.43%	0.04%	0.14%	0.60%
25	0.90%	0.90%	0.09%	0.38%	0.03%	0.19%	0.60%
29	0.68%	0.18%	0.07%	0.06%	0.04%	0.16%	0.60%
31	0.54%	0.15%	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.15%	0.60%
35	0.49%	0.49%	0.26%	0.03%	0.16%	0.19%	0.30%
37	0.42%	0.42%	0.23%	0.02%	0.15%	0.12%	0.30%
41	0.32%	0.09%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.07%	0.30%
43	0.32%	0.09%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.06%	0.30%
47	0.24%	0.24%	0.03%	0.10%	0.01%	0.03%	0.30%
49	0.23%	0.23%	0.03%	0.10%	0.01%	0.04%	0.30%
THD %	31.53%	10.71%	4.48%	2.83%	2.06%	2.73%	5.00%

* Data Generated by Simulation

** Measured Test Data

FIG. 5

MULTI-PULSE RECTIFIER FOR AC DRIVE SYSTEMS HAVING SEPARATE DC BUS PER OUTPUT PHASE

BACKGROUND

Power plants in the U.S. produce three-phase alternating current (AC) electricity, which is then distributed, stepped down and/or rectified as needed to produce the desired type of electricity for individual customers. For many applications, it is useful to rectify the AC electricity to generate a direct current (DC) (or near-DC) output. Full-wave rectification of a three-phase input can be accomplished using a six-pulse diode bridge for each output phase.

The six-pulse bridge, however, generates unwanted harmonic distortion that is passed back to the power plant. Existing standards, such as IEEE 519 (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), govern the amount of distortion that a given component is permitted to cause. For example, IEEE 519 generally limits total harmonic distortion (THD) to about 5%, and the typical six-pulse bridge exceeds that distortion level.

One way of reducing this distortion is to use more than one bridge per phase. For example, some systems use 2, 3 or more bridges per phase, where using more bridges helps reduce the amount of distortion. FIG. 1 shows an example of such a known configuration, in which each output phase uses 6 six-pulse diode bridges, resulting in 36-pulses of current per cycle. As illustrated in FIG. 1, transformer 100 includes an input side 101A and an output side 101B. Three 36-pulse rectifiers 102A,B,C are coupled to secondary windings on the output side of the transformer to produce three output phases. As shown in FIG. 1, each 36-pulse rectifier 102A is fed by six sets of secondary windings 103A. The secondary windings are set at ten degrees separation from one another, and are shown as being +25°, +15°, +5°, -5°, -15° and -25° offset from the primary winding of the input side 101A. The rectifiers in the three phases are all identical in configuration, and are each supplied with six inputs having the same respective phase relationships (e.g., rectifiers 102B and 102C are also fed six inputs that share the same phase relationships found in the six inputs supplied to the first phase rectifier 102A). The result is a three-phase 36-pulse rectification configuration that provides a THD at around 2%, which is well below the IEEE 519 maximum.

FIG. 2 shows one of the 36-pulse rectifiers (102A,B,C) from FIG. 1 in greater detail (as noted above, they are all identical and are provided the same inputs). The 6 six-pulse bridges (201A-F) in each rectifier are shown as being supplied with six inputs from the transformer's secondary windings having the phase relationship noted above (e.g., ten degrees separation from one another). Output is available on positive terminal 202A, common terminal 202B and negative terminal 202C.

The 36-pulse rectifiers used in FIGS. 1 and 2 offer significantly reduced distortion as compared to a single six-pulse rectifier, but at a significantly increased cost. The additional diode bridges and their respective inputs from the secondary windings drive up the overall cost of implementing this configuration. Accordingly, there is a constant need for improved systems that can supply comparable results at a lower cost.

SUMMARY

The following summary generally addresses many of the features described herein, but is not intended to limit the scope of this disclosure or identify features of greater impor-

tance to the claims herein. Although an improved 36-pulse system is used as an example herein, it should be noted that the techniques described are equally applicable to other multi-pulse systems using various combinations of 6-pulse rectifiers.

The systems and features described herein relate, for example, to providing a 36-pulse rectifier using fewer components than used in traditional 36-pulse rectifiers. The system may include a transformer having an input side and an output side, wherein the output side includes six sets of secondary windings at different phase offsets, and three twelve-pulse rectifiers, each rectifier coupled to a unique two of the six sets of secondary windings. The twelve-pulse rectifiers may be made by connecting two six-pulse diode bridges in series or parallel.

In some aspects, each rectifier is coupled to a unique two of the six sets of secondary windings that are separated in phase by thirty degrees. Corresponding inputs of neighboring rectifiers may be separated in phase by ten degrees, and the six sets of secondary windings may also be spaced apart by ten degrees. In some aspects, a first of the rectifiers is coupled to a first set of secondary windings that is 25 degrees behind a primary winding of the transformer and a second set of secondary windings that is 5 degrees ahead of the primary winding; a second of the rectifiers is coupled to a third set of secondary windings that is 15 degrees behind the primary winding and a fourth set of secondary windings that is 15 degrees ahead of the primary winding; and a third of the rectifiers is coupled to a fifth set of secondary windings that is 5 degrees behind the primary winding and a sixth set of secondary windings that is 25 degrees ahead of the primary winding.

Additional features described herein will be addressed in greater detail below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a three-phase configuration using three 36-pulse rectifiers in which each rectifier is provided with the same input (phase) as is provided to the other rectifiers.

FIG. 2 illustrates in greater detail the configuration of each 36-pulse rectifier used in the FIG. 1 configuration.

FIG. 3 illustrates a three-phase configuration using three 12-pulse rectifiers in which each rectifier is not provided with the same input (phase) as is provided to the other rectifiers.

FIG. 4 illustrates in greater detail the configuration of the 12-pulse rectifier used in the FIG. 3 configuration.

FIG. 5 contains a table of data values showing harmonic distortions for a variety of configurations, including the one shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, as compared to requirements of IEEE 519.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 3 illustrates an example three-phase configuration. As shown, a transformer 300 includes an input (primary) side 301, and an output (secondary) side 302. The output side 302 may include a plurality of secondary windings to produce current outputs having a different level and/or phase from that found in an input side primary winding. In FIG. 3, the transformer 300 offers six sets of secondary windings 303A-F. The six sets are shown as being spaced apart by ten degrees, ranging from being 25 degrees behind the primary winding (minus 25° of set 303A) to being 25 degrees ahead of the primary winding (plus 25° of set 303F).

In FIG. 3, these sets are distributed, in pairs, to three separate phase rectifiers 304A-C. They are distributed such that

the two sets received by each rectifier are spaced 30 degrees apart from one another. So, for example, the first rectifier **304A** is shown as receiving a set that is at minus 25 degrees from the primary, and a set at positive 5 degrees, totaling 30 degrees of separation. The other two rectifiers are similarly situated, with the second rectifier **304B** receiving inputs of minus and positive 15 degrees, and the third rectifier **304C** receiving inputs of minus 5 degrees and positive 25 degrees. Aside from the 30 degrees separating the two inputs for each rectifier, each rectifier's inputs are also ten degrees apart from corresponding inputs in its neighboring rectifier. For example, the first input to the first rectifier, input **303A** (at minus 25 degrees), is ten degrees apart from the first input to the second rectifier, input **303C** (at minus 15 degrees), which in turn is ten degrees apart from the first input to the third rectifier (input **303E**, which is at minus 5 degrees). The second inputs to each of the rectifiers are also ten degrees apart from one another (e.g., plus 5 degrees, plus 15 degrees and plus 25 degrees). A separate DC bus is supplied to each output phase to support this distribution.

FIG. 4 illustrates a rectifier (**304A-C**) in greater detail. As illustrated, the rectifier **304** may be a twelve-pulse rectifier comprised of two six-pulse diode bridge rectifiers (**401A-B**) coupled in series. Other configurations, such as a parallel configuration, could also be used. The two inputs supplied to the rectifiers in FIG. 3 are shown as inputs **402A** and **402B**, and are supplied as three lines sharing the same phase. For example, the secondary winding set **303A** is supplied on three lines to the input **402A** of rectifier **304A**, with the three lines connected between series diodes as shown in FIG. 4. The second input **303B** is similarly provided on three lines to input **402B** of rectifier **304A**. The rectifier may provide its output signals at a positive (**403A**), common (**403B**) and negative (**403C**) terminal. These output signals may be provided to a DC/filtering section, or DC bus **404**. Each output phase of this configuration may be provided with its own DC bus, as opposed to having a common DC bus for the three output phases.

Accordingly, the transformer **300** may offer six sets of secondary windings set at different phase relationships, where the secondary windings are distributed in pairs among three twelve-pulse rectifiers. By spacing the phase relationships of the secondary windings so that the six sets are different from one another, the three twelve-pulse rectifiers provide a total of 36 pulses of primary current per cycle, but have the parts count of a twelve-pulse design (using just 2 six-pulse bridges per phase instead of 6).

Testing done by the inventors has shown that the design shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 can offer a THD value of about 2.73%, which is comparable to (although still a bit higher than) that of the conventional 36-pulse design shown in FIG. 1, but which is much better than that of a conventional 12-pulse design (which supplies the same pairs of inputs to all three twelve-pulse rectifiers). The table in FIG. 5 contains data illustrating example odd-order input current harmonics that result from conventional 6-, 12-, 18-, 24- and 36-pulse designs (all of which resemble FIGS. 1 and 2, but with differing numbers of six-pulse bridges per phase—the six-pulse design uses one six-pulse bridge per phase, the twelve-pulse design uses two six-pulse bridges per phase, etc.), as compared to the measured harmonics generated using the FIG. 3/4 design (“MTX 36 pulse”) and the IEEE 519 limits.

The designs shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 offer improvements, but modifications to these designs are also possible. For example, the phase offsets between the secondary windings **303A-C** and the primary winding **301** are shown in FIG. 3, but other offsets from the primary winding may be used as well,

so long as the internal phase relationships between rectifier inputs (e.g., thirty degrees between inputs to a single rectifier, ten degrees between corresponding inputs of neighboring rectifiers) is maintained.

This 10-degree/30-degree relationship described above is shown for the example in which a transformer supplies 6 sets of uniquely-phased secondary windings distributed across the three rectifiers in the three-phase system. Different numbers of secondary windings can be used, and the phase relationships can be adjusted accordingly. In a system having three rectifiers and $3n$ (with n being an integer of 1 or greater) sets of uniquely-phased secondary windings, each rectifier receives n sets of unique secondary windings. The $3n$ secondary windings offered by the transformer are spaced apart at intervals of $20/n$ degrees. In the case where $n=2$ or more, the n sets of secondary windings that are supplied to a given rectifier are spaced apart at intervals of $60/n$ degrees. So in the example illustrated in FIG. 3, the transformer supplies 6 sets of secondary windings, making $n=2$ for that example. The six sets are at 10 degree intervals ($20/2$), and the n sets provided to each given rectifier are at 30 degree intervals ($60/2$). As another example, in an 18-pulse system where the transformer provides 3 sets of secondary windings, the secondary windings would be at intervals of 20 degrees ($20/1$), and each rectifier is comprised of a single six-pulse bridge supplied by a single secondary winding. As yet another example, in a 54-pulse system where the transformer provides 9 sets of secondary windings, the secondary windings would be at intervals of 6.667 degrees ($20/3$), and each rectifier is provided with three ($n=3$) unique sets of secondary windings at intervals of 20 ($60/3$) degrees. The discussion above uses phase intervals, and the actual choice of angles can vary as long as the intervals are preserved. For example, two windings that are to be 10 degrees apart can be 0 and 10 degrees, 5 and 15 degrees, etc.

Further modifications and/or additions may be made as well. For example, control circuitry and smoothing filters may be added to the output terminals (**403A-C**) of the rectifiers between the rectifiers and their respective loads.

The various features, examples and embodiments described above are not intended to limit the scope of the present application, and many of the components may be divided, combined and/or subcombined with one another as desired. Additionally, the numeric values discussed herein (e.g., referring to phase relationships) represent target values, and engineering tolerances will necessarily cause some implementations to deviate slightly from the exact numbers used—any such values appearing herein should be read with an understanding that such engineering tolerance deviations may (and will) occur. Accordingly, the scope of the present patent should only be defined by the following claims.

We claim the following:

1. A drive system comprising:

a transformer having an input side and an output side, wherein said output side includes $3n$ (n being a positive integer) sets of secondary windings at different phase offsets;

three x -pulse rectifiers, each of the rectifiers coupled to a different n sets of said $3n$ sets of secondary windings but not to the remaining $2n$ sets of secondary windings; and three output phase terminals, wherein said system has a separate DC bus per output phase, wherein x is a multiple of six, and wherein the three rectifiers are configured to provide a total of $3x$ pulses per cycle at the output phase terminals.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said $3n$ sets of secondary windings are spaced at a minimum of $20/n$ degree intervals.

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3. The system of claim 2, wherein $n > 1$, and each rectifier is coupled to n sets of said secondary windings spaced apart at a minimum of $60/n$ degrees.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein $n = 2$, said system is a 36-pulse system, and said $3n$ sets of secondary windings are spaced at ten degree intervals.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein $n = 2$, and:

a first of said rectifiers is coupled to a first set of secondary windings that is 25 degrees behind a primary winding of said transformer and a second set of secondary windings that is 5 degrees ahead of said primary winding;

a second of said rectifiers is coupled to a third set of secondary windings that is 15 degrees behind said primary winding and a fourth set of secondary windings that is 15 degrees ahead of said primary winding; and

a third of said rectifiers is coupled to a fifth set of secondary windings that is 5 degrees behind said primary winding and a sixth set of secondary windings that is 25 degrees ahead of said primary winding.

6. A method, comprising:

generating $3n$ uniquely-phased sets of voltage signals at a transformer, said $3n$ sets being spaced apart at an interval of $20/n$ degrees, where n is a positive integer;

supplying each of three rectifiers with a different n sets of said $3n$ sets of voltage signals, wherein each of the uniquely-phased voltage signals is supplied to only one of the three rectifiers, wherein each of the three rectifiers is an x -pulse rectifier, and wherein x is a multiple of six; and

using said rectifiers to provide three output phases having a total of $3 \times$ pulses per cycle;

wherein a separate DC bus exists for each of said output phases.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein $n > 1$, and wherein the n sets of voltage signals supplied to each rectifier are spaced apart at an interval of at least $60/n$ degrees.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said supplying further comprises:

supplying a first one of said rectifiers with a first one of the voltage signals that is 25 degrees behind a transformer primary winding and a second one of the voltage signals that is 5 degrees ahead of said primary winding;

supplying a second one of said rectifiers with a third one of the voltage signals that is 15 degrees behind said primary winding and a fourth one of the voltage signals that is 15 degrees ahead of said primary winding; and

supplying a third one of said rectifiers with a fifth one of the voltage signals that is 5 degrees behind said primary winding and a sixth one of the voltage signals that is 25 degrees ahead of said primary winding.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein $n = 2$, said $3n$ sets of voltage signals are spaced at a minimum of 10 degree inter-

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vals, and said rectifiers are each provided with a unique pair of the voltage signals that are 30 degrees apart.

10. A multi-pulse rectifier system, comprising:

a transformer having $3n$ sets of secondary windings having phase offsets spaced $20/n$ degrees apart, where n is an integer greater than one;

a first x -pulse rectifier coupled to a first group of n sets of the secondary windings, such that all of the sets of secondary windings coupled to the first rectifier are separated by at least $60/n$ degrees of phase;

a second x -pulse rectifier coupled to a second group of n sets of the secondary windings different from the first group, such that all of the sets of secondary windings coupled to the second rectifier are separated by at least $60/n$ degrees of phase; and

a third x -pulse rectifier coupled to a third group of n sets of the secondary windings different from the first and second groups, such that all of the sets of secondary windings coupled to the third rectifier are separated by at least $60/n$ degrees of phase,

wherein x is a multiple of six, and wherein the three rectifiers are configured to provide at total of $3 \times$ pulses per cycle at output phase terminals.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said sets of secondary windings each comprise three lines of output at a common phase.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein said rectifiers each comprise two six-pulse diode bridges.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein $n = 2$, and corresponding inputs to neighboring ones of said rectifiers are separated by 10 degrees of phase.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein:

sets of secondary windings in said first group are 25 degrees behind a primary winding of said transformer and 5 degrees ahead of said primary winding;

sets of secondary windings in said second group are 15 degrees behind a primary winding of said transformer and 15 degrees ahead of said primary winding; and

sets of secondary windings in said third group are 5 degrees behind a primary winding of said transformer and 25 degrees ahead of said primary winding.

15. The system of claim 10, further comprising a separate DC bus, coupled to outputs of said rectifiers, for each of a plurality of output phases of said system.

16. The drive system of claim 1, wherein $x = 12$.

17. The drive system of claim 1, wherein $x =$ one of 6, 12, or 18.

18. The method of claim 6, wherein $x = 12$.

19. The method of claim 6, wherein $x =$ one of 6, 12, or 18.

20. The multi-pulse rectifier system of claim 10, wherein $x = 12$.

21. The multi-pulse rectifier system of claim 10, wherein $x =$ one of 6, 12, or 18.

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